

1-20. (CANCELED)

21. (NEW) A method of shifting a vehicle transmission by a drivers voice, the method comprising the steps of:

issuing a voice command (20) to a voice command input device;

converting the voice command to an electronic command signal and outputting the electronic command signal to a voice command convertor device (20) having a memory(22);

comparing the electronic command signal from the driver with a plurality of reference voice commands electronically stored in the memory (22) to determine a desired one of the reference voice commands;

forming a transmission control signal based on the desired voice command in a transmission control (6);

calculating a shift signal in the transmission control; and

changing the shift signal in the transmission control according to the transmission control signal generated by the driver's voice command to obtain a new shift signal and executing the transmission shift solely according to the new shift signal which is appropriate for the driving situation.

22. (NEW) The method of shifting a vehicle transmission by a drivers voice according to claim 21, the method further comprising the steps of providing the number of gear steps during a change of a reduction ratio both in the upshifts and also in the downshifts via a driver's command issued to the voice command device (20).

23. (NEW) The method of shifting a vehicle transmission by a drivers voice according to claim 21, the method further comprising the steps of providing special driving programs, such as economy, sports programs and winter programs via a driver's command issued to the voice command device (20).

24. (NEW) The method of shifting a vehicle transmission by a drivers voice according to claim 21, the method further comprising the step of suppressing the creeping of the vehicle via a driver's command issued to the voice command device (20).

25. (NEW) The method of shifting a vehicle transmission by a drivers voice according to claim 21, further comprising the step of maintaining an engaged reduction ratio via a driver's command issued to the voice command device (20).

26. (NEW) The method of shifting a vehicle transmission by a drivers voice according to claim 21, further comprising the step of issuing a desired starting reduction ratio via a driver's command issued to the voice command device (20).

27. (NEW) The method of shifting a vehicle transmission by a drivers voice according to claim 21, further comprising the step of providing an easily accessible device for overriding the operation of the voice command device (20).

28. (NEW) The method of shifting a vehicle transmission by a drivers voice according to claim 27, further comprising the step of overriding the operation of the voice command device (20) for a predetermined time interval.

29. (NEW) The method of shifting a vehicle transmission by a drivers voice according to claim 27, further comprising the step of making the overriding of the voice command device accessible exclusively to the driver.

30. (NEW) A method for shifting a transmission (2) of a vehicle having a voice command device (2) operable by the driver by voice commands comprising the steps of:

comparing the driver voice commands with reference voice commands stored in a memory (22) and forming control signals therefrom in a transmission control (6);

modifying shifting signals calculated by said transmission control (6) according to the control signals formed from the driver's voice commands to form therefrom a shift command for said variable transmission (2) of the vehicle appropriate to the situation and to correct the shifting signals calculated by said transmission control (6) before executing a transmission shift.